

DANSVILLE SCHOOLS
Board Facility Committee Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2009

A Facility Committee meeting of the Dansville Schools Board of Education was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Mike Kapp.

Members Present: Dan Pheils, Mike Kapp

Administrators: Nancy Jungkans

Discussion

President Mike Kapp welcomed all in attendance. He asked for history on the subject of the meeting, which is a proposed football practice field behind the soccer field.

Athletic Director Nancy Jungkans stated the property behind the current soccer field was a clearing area of dirt from the new athletic complex. The thought process was always that the clearing area could be a football practice field. This plan and construction started 4-5 years ago but athletics ran out of money and could not continue.

Teacher Amanda Johnson stated that at that time she started with Dansville, the new football complex was crop land. When construction started on the new athletic complex, the drain tile was either taken out or broke in the proposed practice field. This has caused draining problems on the nature trail/area.

Ms. Johnson stated she came to work one day during the construction of the new complex and several white & red pines were cut down and destroyed without FFA knowledge, which has contributed to water issues, as those trees consumed much of the ground water in that area. The trees were cut down, piled and left in that area.

Ms. Johnson stated she applied for and received a \$4000 grant to restore the nature trail. Three years ago, an effort to level the proposed practice field was made, filling a depression area, an area where much of the overflow of water went. More trees grew and were cut down, again causing water issues. During the spring of this year (2009) there was a large amount of rain, causing high volumes of water. The nature area now has 6-7 inches of water standing, which is also on trail. The grade of the driveway was raised, but there is a problem with the current culvert. All water from the proposed practice field is draining into the nature area and destroying plants and trees. Ms. Johnson stated the nature area is part of her curriculum and an important part of her teaching.

Ms. Johnson also stated the proposed practice field won't hurt the nature trail/trail but will need to be watered and that water has to drain somewhere, which, without drain tile, will be into the nature area.

Mike Kapp asked what the current plans were for the proposed area.

Nancy Jungkans stated Marilyn Cooley arranged for volunteers and donations to help clear the proposed location this week.

Secretary Dan Pheils asked what exactly the issue is regarding this property.

Amanda Johnson stated there are drainage issues in the proposed area and funds are required to complete the project correctly. She also stated the current athletic field needs work and questioned whether the district wanted to give funds a practice field and not to correct the current complex.

Doug BeVier stated the tile under the proposed field is broken, as well as the storm drain at corner of the parking lot.

Barb Culham stated drainage is a problem in that area. During her son's Eagle Scout project the field was continually wet, as well as the nature area and trail. The tile is broken and needs to be replaced.

Mark Collins stated he gave an estimate for tiling 3 years ago.

Ann Marie Lindsay stated she was attending the meeting for Superintendent Stoneman and was requested to ask about the dollar amount it would cost to tile, seed/fertilize and maintain the proposed area and wouldn't it be more prudent to use the money to fix the new athletic field.

Dan Price stated he didn't understand what the issue was, and what the connection is with drainage, why it is a problem.

Amanda Johnson stated shorter grass will cause water runoff. The new seed will have to be irrigated and the excess water will run into the nature area. Tilling the area will change the grade and could cause definite problems. Athletics need to install tile to fix draining issue.

Marilyn Cooley asked that if tile is not installed, what will be done about the nature area existing water problems.

Amanda Johnson stated connecting to sewer drain to help with water problem.

Doug BeVier stated lowering the drain behind the sugar shack could help but will cost to have drain repaired and replaced.

Marilyn Cooley asked if the FFA contacted or could ask local people for help.

Amanda Johnson stated FFA had received \$2000 to date to fix problems others caused. And the nature trail is being jeopardized. FFA is responsible for drainage issues on the nature area. A drain tube was installed under the driveway but is not working properly.

Mike Kapp asked if the drain at the end of the parking lot is being fixed.

Doug BeVier stated with the current economic conditions, the maintenance budget was reduced and he expects further reductions. He stated workdays have been reduced but the work has not. Doug also stated the proposed practice facility would add approximately 2-3 hrs per week to mow, over and above his current work. He also feels an additional \$1000 for paint will be needed.

Dan Price commented the price for paint seemed high and asked if Doug sure of that price.

Doug detailed striping/lining of all practice fields.

Wendy Witchell asked if varsity teams could practice on jv and band field.

Mike Kapp asked where the varsity team practices currently and was told to the west of the soccer field, which is also striped for DCAA use.

Dan Price stated he felt DCAA should pay or line the field themselves.

Wendy Witchell stated the district should be worried about the new football field. She stated there is water sitting on the track and will eventually cause damage. It should be fixed before funds are spent on the proposed practice field.

Mike Kapp asked if it was continually wet on the proposed practice field.

Amanda Johnson replied yes.

Mark Collins stated he didn't think there was water on the proposed area, but there could be.

Mike Kapp asked if the nature trail was wetter.

Mark Collins replied he didn't know.

Doug BeVier stated the proposed field would need funds for seeding and maintenance repair.

Mark Collins stated hydro seeding, maintenance and fertilizer would be approximately \$2500 – 3000.

Nancy Jungkans asked Dan Price his need for proposed field. Dan stated he is worried about student safety, as where they practice now is dusty and gets muddy and mucky. This forces the team to go into the lined area, causing the need for re-striping more often. Dan would like to move his team to an area where team can breathe more easily. The JV practice field is on a slant and the varsity would be running uphill and that is not an ideal area. Also, at this time, they can not film practices and the proposed location would allow that, if the soccer team/parents would let them use the old press box.

Mark Collins stated that at this late date, the proposed field would not be usable this year, due to no established turf. It could be used for 2010-11 year but not upcoming 2009-10 year.

Barb Culham stated Paul Hedemark donated a roll off approximately 4 weeks ago. The FFA cleaned trash at the proposed field, and it was still under water at that time.

Dan Price asked if the area was wet in middle of summer.

Wendy Witchell stated yes, it is sometimes very wet at the press box also.

Mark Collins stated it would not be advisable to change the elevation, but the best option to have location tiled and tied into the drain sewer.

Dan Pheils asked what line they would tie into.

Doug BeVier stated the storm drain at end of parking lot.

Mike Kapp stated there is sometimes a drain issue on soccer field also.

Doug BeVier stated yes, in a couple areas.

Mike Kapp asked if putting tile around the practice field would solve nature trail issue. Amanda Johnson stated it would help.

Mike Kapp asked if tile would help the current drain issues at the new football field.

Mark Collins stated the district received recommendations on what to do to rectify problems. MSU evaluated issues and gave solutions. Those solutions can be completed by local contractors. The cost is estimated at \$60,000.

Mike Kapp asked which should be fixed first, the new field or the proposed practice field. He asked Dan Price which the athletic program wanted. Dan Price stated he wants both.

Marilyn Cooley stated she didn't think she could get volunteers again this year if they were not used soon.

Amanda Johnson stated if drain tile was not installed, the work would be for nothing.

Dan Price stated he would rather have the practice field corrected instead of the regular field, because of economic conditions and the lack of funds.

Ann Marie Lindsay asked Dan Price who would pay for drain tile. Dan Price stated either the school or by donations.

Mike Kapp asked what directive athletics and boosters wanted from the Board committee. Original approval was not given at a previous board meeting.

Amanda Johnson stated an analysis of prices, problems that could happen.

Mark Collins stated the district should get a site survey from drain specialists.

Mike Kapp stated the need to take the nature area/trail into account, all maintenance costs, etc. and propose a plan, including who will pay for improvements.

The solution is to get a complete package. The district, athletics or boosters can't go forward with a partial package. At this time, the school can not afford to expend funds on this project when faced with possible personnel layoffs. Funds might be available sometime in the future, but at this time the district can not give any money towards this proposed project. This committee needs a complete package presented before they can go forward. The presentation needs to include costs for seeding, fertilizing, mowing, over-seeding, and fertilizer maintenance, appropriate drainage, and the impact on all areas involved. This analysis needs to be given to Superintendent Stoneman for review.

Doug BeVier stated an adult athletic member could mow.

Mike Kapp asked if there would be a liability for non-employees using school equipment to which Doug BeVier responded he didn't think so, as long as it was an adult.

DCAA members Darren Hartman and Todd Atkins asked if the DCAA would have access to the proposed practice field.

Dan Price replied not for the first 2 years due to there being new grass and various practice schedules, but in future, yes, they could utilize it.

Mark Collins stated Haslett schools use portable goalposts and line 190 yds of field. They move those goal posts so practice is not on the same area all the time. The district and DCAA could both use it the first year, but would need to move the goals regularly. This would also allow everyone to share the field and cut down on the line painting expense.

Mike Kapp asked the boosters to address all issues at hand.

Wendy Witchell stated the boosters were just asked to give money. She stated the athletics need to give complete proposal.

Nancy Jungkans was asked to get an estimate and opinion of drain tile need for the proposed practice field.

Mike Kapp stated athletics, boosters and the district should look at all issues on hand and what the community perception will be. The district has a new field that can't be used but will spend funds on a practice field.

Dan Price stated the new athletic field needs to be corrected, but due to limited school funds will not. He is asking the district to fund the proposed practice field.

Mike Kapp stated he would like to see all implemented but currently the funds are not available from the district. He asked that the proposal be given to Superintendent Stoneman.

Mark Collins stated the proposed field needs to be seeded by September or the district will have to wait longer to use.

Superintendent Stoneman is to receive information from Nancy and Doug on costs.

Wendy Witchell asked if the same contractor could look at the new football field also.

Mike Kapp asked because so many people donated to the new field, why don't athletics approach the community to ask for donations.

Amanda Johnson stated the FFA is not trying to stop other groups from enhancing their programs, but doesn't want any further damage to nature area or trail.

Decision

Clearing of the practice field area will be put on hold until a complete proposal is presented to Superintendent Stoneman for his decision. Adequate drainage to protect the practice field and nature trail, as well as the upkeep must be included. The proposal include adopting Haslett's approach outlined by Mark Collins to line 190 yards and use portable goal posts. Nancy Jungkans will begin by approaching a local contractor regarding repair of the existing drain tile under the proposed practice field.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Pheils, Secretary